

Police Order, 2002

# 'Depoliticisation of police is a must for effective criminal justice system'

Speakers discuss the police 'dis-order' in the country

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Depoliticisation of the police is a must for effective working of the criminal justice system in Pakistan.

This was stated by former police official and Federal Investigation Agency chief Dr Shoaib Suddle who called upon civil society, media and lawyers community on Monday in a struggle for implementation of the law, especially the Police Order, 2002.

Suddle was the keynote speaker at an 'Interactive Session on Police Reforms', which was jointly organised by the Pakistan Institute

of Labour Education and Research (Piler) and Citizens Trust Against Crimes at the office of Citizens Police Liaison Committee (CPLC), Karachi.

"Rights are not given, they are taken," said Suddle, adding that citizens' activism through courts is an encouraging sign to ensure the protection of rights given under the Constitution. According to him, the Police Order, 2002 is much better than the police laws in many countries.

"After independence, Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah had pledged to introduce the Bombay model police law in Karachi, but bureaucracy failed to fulfill that promise," he said. Later, different commissions were formed to make a new

police law. The commissions gave their recommendations and finally the 2002 law was passed, Suddle said.

According to him, before its implementation, the Police Order of 2002 was resisted by many politicians. "Over a 100 amendments have been made in the Police Order of 2002 since the law was passed," he added.

He said Article 143 of the Constitution makes the police laws a federal domain but also allows provinces to make amendments in the laws with certain conditions.

There is a judgment of the Sindh High Court that fundamental rights must be taught as part of the school curriculum but it has yet to be implemented, Sindh High Court Bar Association

General-Secretary Kashif Paracha said, adding that the implementation of laws is a big challenge faced in Pakistan.

Before the creation of Pakistan, there was a strong police system in Sindh as the police were under control of their officers during the British rule, former Sindh police chief Saud Mirza said. "Charles Napier had passed an order that even if an army officer violates police laws, they could be arrested and tried," Mirza said.

Former CPLC Chief Nazim F Haji, while commenting on the police system, in Pakistan said, "It is outdated, arbitrary and whimsical with inadequate accountability, poor incentives, and widespread corruption".